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OCT 26 1921 ✓

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THEODORA ✓

Photoplay in ten reels ✓

✓ From the drama by Victorien Sardou ✓

✓ Produced by Unione Cinematografica Italiana ✓

✓ Directed by Cavaliere Leopoldo Carlucci ✓

✓ Author of Photoplay (Under sec. 62) ✓
Unione Cinematografica Italiana ✓

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THEODORA.

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Theodora and Antonina are in a Byzantine garden when the Emperor Justinian and his general, Belisarius, return from the war. Antonina is the wife of Belisarius and the courtesan Theodora is her friend. The emperor is fascinated with the courtesan's beauty and the girl visions her future as ~~Empress~~ the consort of Justinian. The emperor marries Theodora and the erst-while courtesan is elevated to the throne. Justinian becomes ill and his wife prays to the saints that he may live. The emperor is a weak, vacillating character since his marriage and Theodora rules him and her subjects with iron hand. Frequently Theodora haunts the streets disguised as a maid and she has several illicit love affairs in this manner. On one occasion Andreas meets her and takes her in his arms when she becomes frightened at the vibrations of the earth from a quake. Andreas is one of the leaders of a conspiracy which has its objective the overthrow of Justinian and his consort. Theodora loves him and she passes herself off as the sister of a scribe who works in the royal palace. She visits Andreas' home on many occasions where they give free play to their love. Belisarius is summoned home with other generals who have been reported to be conspiring against the emperor. The scandal resulting from his wife's escapades have made him wroth and he ignores Antonina who watches him in apprehension. Belisarius is placed under arrest and marched away to the royal prison. Marcellus-a Ceturion on duty at the palace-is the leader of the conspiracy to overthrow Justinian and he and Andreas confer on many occasions at the latter's house. Antonina resolves to win back her husband's love and she visits the foster-mother of Theodora-Tamyris-who brews draughts that have the magic of reviving love in the person that drinks of them. Gorgia-the executioner-torture one of the generals, Buses, but he dies without implicating Belisarius. Belisarius has asked for an audience and he is brought before Theodora. She denounces him until she receives news that Buses has absolved Belisarius before he died. The empress directs Belisarius to become reconciled with Antonina-who is now her lady in waiting. He indignantly refuses and Theodora summons a slave who brings her a massive goblet into which she pours the love philter. Belisarius fears it may be poison but he fears to refuse to drink. He drains the cup and falls unconscious. When he awakens he is in his wife's arms and all his old love is revived and husband and wife depart happy in their reconciliation. Theodora watches them with inscrutable smile. Justinian misses Theodora and has a search conducted for her. She has been visiting her lover Andreas and Justinian upbraids her for her unaccountable absence upon her returns. The rulers receive the homage of a delegation of tribal chiefs and the vast assemblage pays homage to Justinian. An aged recluse-a holy man-forces his way thru the masses and commences a scathing denunciation against the emperor and the sinfulness and extravagancies of Theodora. Justinian commands his soldiers to drag the aged man away. Theodora hopes to placate Justinian's suspicions by the magic potency of a love philter and she visits Tamyris and asks her to prepare a draught. Tamyris' son Amru is a jester at the court and Calcante and a party of jovial companions bent on a carousal drag Amru away with them.

Meanwhile, Andreas is closeted with his fellow conspirators and his servant delivers a love token from Theodora to his master. His fellows jest with him on his new conquest and Andreas tells them of her. Amru and his companions emerge from a drinking place and they observe a young married couple who are about to embark in their boat. Flushed with drink Amru and Calcante pursue the newlyweds over the water-using a boat which they appropriate for the purpose. They overtake their prey and a desperate conflict ensues as the husband tries to fight them off. The husband is finally killed and the bride drowns herself rather than submit to the men's unwelcome attentions. The affair is noised abroad and it incenses the wrath of the pop-

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place against the emperor. They imagine that Theodora will protect her foster brother Amru against all consequences. Marcellus, Andreas and the other conspirators are together when they hear the news and Marcellus vows that he will kill the emperor that night. Andreas promises to accompany him and the two men embrace. Theodora arrives to visit her lover and she finds him clothed in the uniform of an imperial guard which he has donned preparatory for his evening's hazardous adventure. Her suspicions are aroused and she entices Andreas to tell her all. He finally denounces Theodora to her and intimates that she has not long to live. Justinian has again missed Theodora and he orders a search be made for her. Andreas and Theodora hear the funeral chant of the mob which is marching below on the street and conveying the body of the bride to a place of burial. Theodora realizes that a plot is afoot and after bidding Andreas an affectionate adieu she hastens away. She has succeeded in getting the names of the conspirators from her sweetheart.

Justinian orders the arrest of Calpurnius and Amru. Soldiers tear Amru from the arms of Tamyris. He tells his mother to be of good cheer because Theodora will protect him. The empress hastens to the palace and Justinian sneers at her for her gadding about like a woman of the streets. The shouts of the mob gathered outside is visible and Theodora takes advantage of Justinian's fears and he seeks to conciliate her wrath. Theodora tells him to summon Belisarius to the palace. The general arrives eluding the conspirators who arrive at his home too late to detain him. Antonina at her home overhears further details of the plot afoot and she hastens to the palace with the news. Theodora counsels with Belisarius and has him arrange to secretly post guard about the palace to frustrate any plot that may be afoot. Marcellus and Andreas enter the royal quarters using the door of a private chapel as their means of ingress. Marcellus leaves Andreas on guard and then advances to slay the emperor and empress. Two soldiers surprise Marcellus and the three men struggle. Marcellus shouts a word of warning to Andreas just before he is stunned by a blow on the head. Theodora has been awakened and as she hears the warning cry she knows intuitively that Andreas must be the other conspirator. Hoping to save her lover's life she hastens to the chapel and bars the door so that Andreas cannot enter. He hears the cries of Marcellus and tries to go to his companion's assistance but he cannot pass the barred door. He accordingly retraces his steps and returns to his home. Marcellus is made prisoner and the emperor orders him to be turned over to Gorgia who will put him on the rack and extract a confession from him. Again realizing her lover's danger Theodora prevails upon the emperor to let her talk with Marcellus before he is handed over to the executioner. Theodora tells Marcellus she is the lover of Andreas and bids him tell her how she may best help him. Marcellus refuses to talk and Theodora warns him of the tortures that await him and she conjures up the torture chamber to his eyes. He knows he cannot stand the torture no matter how stout of heart he is and suddenly he sees a way out. Theodora is wearing a dagger in her hair and he asks her to kill him. She hesitates and he taunts her and informs her the life of her lover depends upon her killing him. Moved to desperation she does the deed just as Justinian and Gorgia and the soldiers come on the scene. Theodora dissembles and tells her husband that Marcellus insulted her and in the height of her fury she plunged the dagger in his breast. Theodora visits Andreas and tells him of the death of Marcellus. She intimates she has heard about the affair last night from her brother who is a scribe at the palace. Using all her wiles she exacts the names of the other conspirators from the unsuspecting Andreas. After Theodora leaves Agatone and some of the other conspirators enter. They remark that there must be a traitor among them. One of the men doubts Theodora and Andreas defends her. However, he realizes he has been deceived when one of the men informs him that his sweetheart does not live with her brother the scribe at the palace as no one is employed there by the name Theodora has assumed. Realizing that he has been duped Andreas tells the men all. He determines to go to the games at

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the hippodrome and try and slay the empress. He does not dream that his sweetheart is Theodora. The amphitheater is crowded when Justinian enters but the people are sullen and refuse to greet their sovereign. Justinian orders the games to commence. The chariot racers come into the arena but the crowd jump from their seats and running into the arena stop the race. The emperor is startled and when the crowd increases and stands under his box he becomes uneasy. He talks to them and tries to reason with them. Theodora enters with her retinue at this moment. Andreas has pushed his way up the front so that he may get a chance to stab one of the rulers if the opportunity offers. He recognises in Theodora his sweetheart. He commences a harrangue the crowd calling Theodora vile names etc. Both the emperor and the empress ~~xxx~~ hear the insults and Theodora summons Belisarius to her and bids him have the man seized. Belisarius sends his soldiers into the arena and they drive the crowd before them and finally make Andreas a prisoner.

Theodora and Justinian retire to an ante room and Andreas is brought before them. Theodora nearly faints when she recognises her lover. Justinian orders Andreas turned over to Gorgia for execution. Theodora is desperate and to gain time she orders some of her faithful men to turn the lions loose. Andreas is about to be beheaded when Theodora asks the emperor to turn the captive over to her-she will torture him and make him die a thousand deaths in one. Justinian orders Andreas turned over to her. She tells the soldiers to take him to her chambers and she goes on before them to prepare for Andreas' coming. The lions are let loose and they cause a panic in the arena and theater. People flee helter skelter. The guards conveying Andreas get panic stricken and tie him to a pillar and then flee. A big lion comes up and is about to attack Andreas when Tamyris-a former lion trainer and the foster-mother of Theodora rescues him. She tells Andreas he may repay his debt by rescuing her son Amru who rots in a dungeon. Andreas inflames the populace and they rush on to the bastille to rescue the prisoners.

Justinian learns of the uprising and he addresses Belisarius and his other generals and tells them to quell the mob. The mob bursts into the prison but find most of the prisoners dead in the torture chamber. Tamyris mourns over the body of her son Amru and she vows vengeance against the emperor. Part of the city is in flames as a result of the mob's wrath but the imperial soldiers soon rout the mob and restore order. Justinian's chief adviser awakens his suspicions of Theodora by recounting how zealous she has been to save Andreas ever since she killed Marcellus. As Justinian visions up the different events he becomes convinced that Theodora is the lover of Andreas and he becomes mad with jealousy. He reviles Theodora who scorns him. Infuriated ~~xxx~~ he strips her of her crown and jewels and tells her he is going to cast her back to the gutter from whence he took her. She leaves him and in the courtyard of the palace she comes across ~~the~~ her foster-mother and asks her for the promised love philter. She hopes to regain Justinian's love by administering same to him. Tamyris has rescued Andreas who has been wounded in an encounter with the soldiers and when Tamyris exits Theodora glimpses her lover. She runs to him but he tries to repulse her. She pleads with him and retells many of their tender moments passed together. Andreas weakens and hoping to restore him to health and to herself Theodora makes him drink the love philter. It is a deadly poison which Tamyris has brewed in the hope that Theodora will give it to Justinian and thus she will be revenged for the death of her son. Andreas dies and ~~xxxx~~ Theodora is distraught as she realizes she has killed her lover. She throws herself across her lover's body. Arising Theodora flees thru the environs of the palace visions of her past wantonness following her about. Again she returns to the body of Andreas and she is found there when Justinian and a part of searchers arrive. Justinian orders Gorgia to strangle her. Theodora bravely awaits her fate and dies with a smile on her lips--she has a tryst to

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to keep with Andreas her lover and she welcomes death. Justinian is unable to await the execution of his former wife and as Gorgia tightens the cord about her neck the emperor shields his eyes with his cloak and steals away.

Oct.3-1921 E.J.M.

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OCT 26 1921

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I herewith respectfully request the return of the following named motion picture films deposited by me for registration of copyright in the name of

Unione Cinematografica Italiana

THEODORA (10 reels)

Respectfully,

FULTON BRYLAWSKI.

The Unione Cinematografica Italiana hereby acknowledges the receipt of two copies each of the motion picture films deposited and registered in the Copyright Office as follows:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date of Deposit</u>	<u>Registration</u>
THEODORA	10/26/21	©CL 17133 L:

20 Copies Returned

OCT 27 1921

Bk

John Person

OCT 27 1921

Ex - F. G. P.

The return of the above copies was requested by the said company, by its agent and attorney, on the 26th day of October, 1921, and the said Fulton Brylawski for himself and as the duly authorized agent and attorney of the said company, hereby acknowledges the delivery to him of said copies and the receipt thereof.

Fulton Brylawski

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